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Chairman: Mr. Maitland ..... (South Africa)

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The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

Agenda item 78: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Berry** (Canada) said although much progress had been made towards reforming peacekeeping operations, much still remained to be done. For example, while periodic briefings were useful and appreciated, there was no substitute for direct input into the planning and implementation of missions from those States with troops on the ground. Significant progress had been made in cooperation between the Security Council, the Secretariat and troop-contributing countries in that regard and he made special note of Security Council resolution 1353 (2002) as well as the note of the President of the Security Council (S/2002/56) providing for the convening of joint meetings on specific missions between the Security Council Working Group of the Whole on Peacekeeping Operations and troop-contributing countries.

2. Stronger management was an essential part of the reform effort; he therefore welcomed the imminent appointment of a new Military Adviser and urged that the positions of Director of Change Management and Civilian Police Adviser be filled as soon as possible. He looked forward to the Best-Practices Unit assuming its central role in integrating lessons learned into the planning of new missions and in improving the functioning of existing missions. With regard to gender mainstreaming, however, he expressed concern that there was no focal point for policy and support for that critical function within the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, although there were gender advisers in a number of United Nations missions. The Fifth Committee must support gender mainstreaming in the field through the allocation of appropriate resources to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations for that purpose.

3. Peacekeeping was becoming increasingly complex and non-traditional, with missions regularly incorporating disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes in order to offer combatants an alternative livelihood following a conflict. Peace-builders and the agencies in which they operated provided a large part of the exit strategy for peacekeepers because a durable peace was the key to lasting security and a successful peace operation. He therefore welcomed the initiative by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to develop a strategic manual on multidimensional peacekeeping operations. The overall relationship between peacekeeping and peace-building could also be explored more extensively, in particular with regard to security sector reform, which had been recognized as essential in assisting a country to emerge from conflict. Much work remained to be done to ensure that those issues were mainstreamed into reconstruction and development efforts.

4. The international community faced its greatest peacekeeping challenges in Africa. The African Union itself had recognized the need to seek speedy, peaceful solutions to current conflicts and to build Africa's capacity to prevent, manage and resolve all conflicts on the continent. The question remained of how the collective peacekeeping experience of the United Nations, as well as other efforts under way to build Africa's peacekeeping capacity, could best be applied. In July 2002 the Group of Eight had agreed to an extensive action plan in response to the New Partnership for Africa's Development, which included measures to enhance peace and security in Africa, and develop peacekeeping capabilities. All members of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations should reflect on the role that Committee might play in building African capacity and helping donors to share information and coordinate their efforts. His Government was committing $15 million for a peace and security initiative in West Africa, specifically for the member countries of the Economic Community of West African States. It would also explore other ways to support the Group of Eight action plan.

5. Improved cooperation, strengthened management of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, linking of peacekeeping and peace-building and facilitating peace and security in Africa were critical issues for the future success of United Nations peacekeeping. A vital and dynamic Special Committee should play a greater role than ever in such efforts. His delegation looked forward to cooperating with others with a view to reaching agreement on a forward-looking agenda focused on results.

6. **Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Hussein** (Jordan), speaking on behalf of the member countries of the Non-Aligned Movement, recalled that the position of the Non-Aligned Movement was that peacekeeping operations must abide strictly by the guiding principles articulated at its Eleventh Ministerial Conference in

Cairo and the Durban Conference of 1998 and those contained in the report of the Special Committee (A/56/863, paras. 51 to 56). The establishment or extension of any peacekeeping operation must be based on the consent of the parties, non-use of force except in self-defence, impartiality, clearly defined mandates and secure financing. Peacekeeping, while an important tool for the maintenance of international peace and security, was no substitute for a permanent solution or for addressing the underlying causes of conflicts. It had proved most useful when, as a temporary measure, it had prevented escalation and created an atmosphere conducive to exploring peaceful avenues for ending a conflict.

7. The Non-Aligned Movement welcomed the Under-Secretary-General's commitment to engage in a dialogue with Member States with a view to reducing the number of cases of misconduct. All troop-contributing countries had at some time been shamed by the behaviour of an individual or a small group of individuals. Any such misconduct was a stain on the reputation of both the contributing country and the United Nations. It was important to clarify the legal status of all categories of contributed personnel, especially police, in order to reduce the likelihood of confusion over subsequent actions to be taken. The Organization should present its position on that issue in writing and hold consultations between the Secretariat and the troop-contributing countries.

8. In cases of gross misconduct requiring subsequent prosecution under national jurisdictions, lawyers from the contributing country should be able to join in any investigation mounted by the Organization so that the United Nations could learn about the court system of the contributing country while the legal representatives of the latter could ensure that the evidence provided grounds for prosecution. The recommendations of the working group on disciplinary issues could provide a basis for comprehensive discussion between the Secretariat and the Member States.

9. With regard to Headquarters and mission leadership, while welcoming the appointment of the Military Adviser, the Non-Aligned Movement expressed concern at the growing predominance of certain regional groups or even countries in senior posts. It remained of the view that the three senior military positions in the field, Force Commander, Deputy Force Commander and Chief of Staff, should be filled by nationals of the largest contributors to that force and that no Force Commander or senior officer should be appointed to a mission to which his or her country was not making a sizeable contribution in the form of troops. The Organization should avoid a situation where the industrialized world was supplying the Commanders while the developing world was supplying the troops, which would hardly encourage countries from the North to contribute more troops to peacekeeping operations.

10. With regard to rapid deployment, while recognizing the benefits of joint training, the Non-Aligned Movement continued to oppose the Standby Forces High-Readiness Brigade initiative because, by referring to a brigade, the authors of the scheme appropriated for themselves the authority of the Secretary-General to decide the composition of part or all of a peacekeeping force. He requested the Secretariat to take note of the Non-Aligned Movement's opposition to that scheme.

11. Turning to recruitment, the Non-Aligned Movement welcomed efforts to improve the representation of developing and troop-contributing countries in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. As for entitlements, it expressed concern that any change in the mean subsistence allowance for peacekeeping operations without a commensurate adjustment to hazard pay, which traditionally had been too low given the dangerous situations in which peacekeepers were deployed, would only serve as a disincentive for developing country participation in United Nations operations.

12. The Non-Aligned Movement welcomed the increase in the rate of reimbursement for most if not all major troop-contributors, with regard to both troop costs and contingent-owned equipment, but stressed the need for all Member States to pay their assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions and reaffirmed the obligation of Member States to bear the expenses of the Organization as apportioned by the General Assembly, bearing in mind the special responsibility of the permanent members of the Security Council.

13. With regard to the rules of engagement, the Non-Aligned Movement insisted that all countries taking part in a United Nations peacekeeping operation must abide by the United Nations rules of engagement and

not by their own national rules of engagement, as was currently the case with some participating countries.

14. The Non-Aligned Movement was proud to have been represented in almost every operation since 1948 and, in recent years, to have supplied the majority of troops to United Nations peacekeeping missions worldwide, especially the most dangerous operations. Deeply aware of the risks inherent in peacekeeping, it paid tribute to the more than 1,500 United Nations peacekeepers who had lost their lives in the service of the United Nations.

15. **Ms. Baaziz** (Algeria) said that in order to succeed, peacekeeping operations must be based on principles such as the consent of the parties, impartiality, non-use of force except in self-defence, a clear, realistic and credible mandate and adequate resources.

16. The report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (the Brahimi report) (A/55/305-S/2000/809) had identified the challenges facing the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. Steps must also be taken to ensure the recruitment of qualified personnel in the field, who should receive proper training before deployment reflecting the new elements in peacekeeping operations such as humanitarian aspects, the fight against HIV/AIDS, assistance to civilian populations and political training regarding the specific situation of each mission. Further progress was also necessary in ensuring close cooperation between the Security Council, the Secretariat and troop-contributing countries in order to take into account the legitimate concerns of troop-contributing countries and involve them in the decisions which affected the lives of their troops. Her delegation supported broader consultations, through the consultation mechanism between the Security Council and troop-contributing countries which should not be limited only to countries supplying large numbers of troops.

17. Regional organizations, in cooperation with the United Nations, could play an important role in peacekeeping. The regions most affected by conflict, particularly in Africa, should receive special attention. The establishment of the Organization of African Unity/African Union (OAU/AU) mechanism for the prevention, management and settlement of conflicts as well as the mediation missions undertaken by African States in Africa were proof of their desire to promote peace throughout the continent. She expressed the hope that the forthcoming review of the cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union would give new impetus to that cooperation.

18. **Mr. Zhang** Yishan (China) welcomed the successes of recent peacekeeping operations in Sierra Leone, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burundi, Angola, Timor-Leste, and Afghanistan. His delegation fully supported peacekeeping as well as the efforts of all parties concerned to reform peacekeeping operations based on the lessons learned in planning, deployment and response capacity. It was important that the mandates of peacekeeping missions should be defined taking into account circumstances on the ground, including the views of the country and region concerned, and that they should be realistic and feasible and have clear goals. Peacekeeping operations, in particular in Africa, should also involve coordinated action on the part of all United Nations agencies, regional organizations and the international community, which must show the political will necessary to commit adequate human, financial and material resources to enhancing capacity for conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peace-building. Peacekeeping was not an end in itself but rather a means to promote international peace and security while simultaneously addressing problems such as poverty and disease and eliminating the root causes of conflict.

19. His delegation remained concerned at the increasing tension and violence in Palestine and the Middle East, which threatened the parties involved as well as the entire region. That situation deserved as much attention from the international community as did situations elsewhere, and he stressed the need for increased efforts to ensure reconciliation between Israel and Palestine based on relevant Security Council resolutions and the principle of land for peace.

20. He expressed support for increased cooperation between the Security Council and troop-contributing countries and hoped the latter would continue to express their views to the Security Council Working Group of the Whole on Peacekeeping Operations. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations should likewise increase its cooperation with troop-contributing countries as well as the transparency of peacekeeping planning, preparation, policy-making and deployment. The Department should also increase the transparency of its reforms and ensure equitable geographic distribution of personnel, especially by

recruitment from those countries which were underrepresented in the Department.

21. His Government recognized the value of peacekeeping operations. On the concrete level, it had decided to provide a non-combat unit to the standby arrangements system and was considering supplying medical and/or engineering support to the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It would continue to increase its practical contribution to peacekeeping operations as its resources allowed.

22. **Mr. Motomura** (Japan) said that successful peacekeeping operations in such areas as Timor-Leste and Sierra Leone highlighted the continuing importance of peacekeeping operations and the need to implement the reform agenda, capitalizing on the Secretariat's reinforced capacity. He applauded the Secretariat's efforts to elaborate a handbook on multidimensional peacekeeping operations and standard operating procedures, and expressed the hope that it would also conduct a comprehensive review of lessons learned. In September, in cooperation with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, and under the joint auspices of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the Institute of Policy Studies of Singapore and the Japan Institute for International Affairs, Japan had hosted a conference on lessons learned from the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor. The outcome of that conference would be shared with Member States.

23. In the general debate in the plenary session, the Prime Minister of Japan, Mr. Koizumi, had highlighted the importance of post-conflict assistance in the consolidation of peace- and nation-building. His delegation believed that the Security Council initiatives concerning exit strategies to pave the way for peace-building should be taken up by the appropriate General Assembly bodies. With regard to the need for cooperation between the Security Council and countries that contributed military, police and civilian personnel, he reiterated Japan's position that the new consultative mechanism established by the note of the President of the Security Council must be operated in an inclusive manner.

24. His delegation encouraged the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to take concrete action to guarantee the safety and security of peacekeeping personnel, based on its own security review, the recommendations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and input from the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator in terms of information sharing, pre-deployment and in-mission training, equipment and legal measures. It hoped that the Secretary-General, in his next report, would provide detailed information on the specific measures taken.

25. His delegation welcomed the consensus reached on enhancing a rapid deployment capability in the areas of personnel, materiel and funding. It appreciated the Department's regular consultations with Member States on improving the United Nations Standby Arrangements System and remained interested in the proper management of strategic deployment stocks, deeming the current stock level — sufficient for the establishment of one complex mission — appropriate for the time being.

26. Given how crucial it was to improve the representation of underrepresented and unrepresented Member States, his delegation agreed with the Office of Internal Oversight Services that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations should review the current composition of its staff in terms of geographical distribution and make an effort to improve the situation during the next phase of recruitment for additional and rotation posts. It hoped that the Secretary-General would provide specific information in that regard to the Special Committee at its forthcoming session.

27. With the development of a mechanism for broader cooperation, Japan had entered a new phase of its cooperation with peacekeeping operations, as evidenced by its deployment since February of over 690 troops and staff officers to Timor-Leste.

28. **Mr. Al-Najar** (Yemen) said that collective and coordinated efforts, before and after peacekeeping operations, were important for peace-building. Peace was the justification of the United Nations and was the means to save humanity from the horrors of war. It was an essential condition for achieving well-being and development for all countries.

29. His delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's reports concerning peacekeeping operations, transparency and paving the way for non-participating countries to take part in peacekeeping. The object was to reinforce the idea that peace involved everyone.

30. His Government, recognizing the importance of peacekeeping, had established and thoroughly trained Yemeni Units in order to enforce international peace within the framework of the United Nations. Despite their training, however, those units had not yet served. He affirmed that Yemen was ready to participate in humanitarian peace missions if the United Nations agreed to that.

31. **Mr. Assaf** (Lebanon) said that further measures should be taken to improve peacekeeping operations, especially with regard to rapid deployment, ensuring the security of air and sea transport, improving relations between Headquarters and field missions, and coordination between the Organization and troop-contributing countries. Peacekeeping operations should be based on the consent of the parties, impartiality and respect for sovereignty.

32. The first United Nations peacekeeping operation, the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, had been unable to achieve its mission because Israel did not want peace. Israel had waged a number of wars and occupied Arab lands, including southern Lebanon in 1978; the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) had been established following that incursion. Lebanon regarded UNIFIL as a partner in the liberation of its land from Israeli occupation. UNIFIL had undergone a structural reform at a time when it had still to achieve an important mission in order to reach comprehensive and global peace in the region. Any change in the mandate or size of UNIFIL must be approved by his Government.

33. The situation in the occupied Palestinian territories was a threat to international peace and security. Israel was still committing all kinds of aggression against the Palestinian people. He called upon the international community to put pressure on Israel to accept the deployment of an international peacekeeping force that would restore peace and security in the region in accordance with the relevant provisions of international law.

34. **Mr. Stagno** (Costa Rica), speaking on behalf of the Rio Group countries, said that the Rio Group firmly supported the United Nations peacekeeping operations, but also felt that the demands of peacekeeping should not deflect the United Nations from dealing with matters of similar importance on its agenda, such as equitable social and economic development. It fully supported the proposals and conclusions in the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (A/56/863), especially with regard to the role of the Special Committee, the importance of civilian police and other law-enforcement bodies in fulfilling the multidimensional mandates of peacekeeping operations, financing and the safety and security of United Nations peacekeeping personnel. The Rio Group reaffirmed the important role of the Special Committee as the only United Nations body mandated to undertake comprehensive reviews of the whole question of peacekeeping operations, it was therefore essential for all other United Nations bodies involved in peacekeeping to coordinate their activities in pursuit of their common goals.

35. In recent years, the traditional military definition of peacekeeping missions had been extended to include political, legal and humanitarian components, in consideration not only of the States involved but also of the human beings who lived in them. In that connection, the work of the civilian police and judicial experts was crucial; all Member States should become involved in designing training programmes and procedures that would best make use of their services.

36. The financing of peacekeeping operations was another concern. The Rio Group hoped that the report on the rapid-deployment difficulties faced by the troop-contributing countries, would recommend solutions, especially to the financial obstacles that arose at the initial stages of deployment and to the delayed payments that so plagued peacekeeping operations. New ways should also be found to give the developing countries more opportunities to obtain procurement contracts, as recommended in General Assembly resolutions 54/14 and 55/247.

37. The Special Committee had made it clear that the success of peacekeeping operations depended to a large extent on clearly defined mandates, objectives and command structures and on secure financing, allowing effective and rapid deployment with the highest possible guarantees of security for the participants. Indeed, everything must be done to protect those who, in the field, made the international community's commitment to peace a reality, even to the point of sacrificing their lives.

38. **Mr. Abu Zeid** (Egypt) said that the developing countries were contributing most of the human resources to peacekeeping operations, while the developed countries were mainly providing financing

or sending personnel to the least dangerous missions; that situation was a source of deep concern to many developing countries. Peacekeeping operations were the international community's response to crises that posed a threat to international peace and security. A regional response to international crises was not a permanent solution for dealing with such crises. The responsibility for maintaining international peace and security must be collective.

39. A number of international peacekeepers has committed serious violations that conflicted with the moral obligations that ensued from the duties and honour of serving in United Nations peacekeeping operations. He affirmed the right of the contributing countries to take the necessary disciplinary measures vis-à-vis observers and other peacekeeping personnel, and the right of the national courts to take up violations committed by such personnel. No immunity should be granted to such individuals. His delegation looked forward to a more intensive and constructive dialogue between the Secretariat and delegations in order to solve that problem as soon as possible.

40. All countries must fulfil their financial obligations towards peacekeeping operations. Such undertaking would help the Organization accomplish its role in maintaining international peace and security and achieving stability.

41. **Mr. Williamson** (United States of America) said that in the unstable contemporary global environment, there was an important role for a comprehensive model of peacekeeping. Yet peace-building was equally important, and the United Nations peacekeeping missions, with all their imperfections, offered hope for achieving that as well. In the post-cold-war era, peacekeeping had evolved into a force for lasting peace, a framework for civilian as well as military activity, for institution-building, transitional justice, economy-building and education. Peacekeeping provided the context and the security within which a civil society could take root and grow. Mission mandates had become increasingly robust, sophisticated and tailored to specific needs, and were premised on phasing out the mission as soon as the powers of government could be turned over to the governed.

42. In recent years, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations had been given the tools with which to carry out its responsibilities effectively, and among its goals now were the strengthening of the rule of the law and respect for human rights in post-conflict situations, including the training and restructuring of local police forces and the establishment of complete legal systems within which they could work. Cessation of a conflict did not guarantee a sustainable peace; that could come about only if the underlying problems that had led to the conflict were resolved. Peacekeepers began the process, but the international community must work together to deal with the long-term development needs.

43. There were some basic post-conflict axioms: civilian police, integrated into an effective, fair legal system and a functioning judiciary, were critical in developing sustainable peace; a competent, impartial legal system could deal also with war crimes and ethnic cleansing, in order to heal the wounds of the society and end the culture of impunity; the society thus shaped must be tolerant of all ethnic groups, provide opportunities for citizens regardless of gender, and guarantee the return of refugees or displaced persons; an economy, based on law and respect for property rights and free of corruption, must be jump started because people in desperate poverty could become the terrorists of the future; in some cases significant donor assistance was required, and in others, the countries involved, rooting out corruption, must use their natural resources to fund a large part of their own recovery; former combatants must be demobilized, disarmed and reintegrated into a growing economy; and finally a well-defined exit strategy must be built into every mission.

44. **Mr. Balarezo** (Peru) said that his delegation welcomed and supported the progress made in the reform and revitalization of key aspects of peacekeeping, in particular the design of an integral rapid deployment strategy, the strengthening of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the implementation of quick-impact projects on the ground and the establishment of a strategic reserve unit in Brindisi. That initial phase of structural and conceptual consolidation of peacekeeping operations provided a basis for future reform, including fuller participation by all Member States in peacekeeping operations. In that connection Peru welcomed efforts to simplify the United Nations Standby Arrangements System in order to encourage more countries to contribute troops and specific actions to enhance personnel training for future peacekeeping operations, including uniform standards would help troops of different nationalities

serving under a single command. It also welcomed the organization of regional seminars to develop standardized generic training modules, with the direct participation of national institutions. Direct contact and transparency were prerequisites for all aspects of peacekeeping operations, including procurement.

45. Many developing countries had difficulty in complying with rapid deployment time frames. He hoped that the Secretary-General's report on that topic would soon be issued and would contain adequate and relevant proposals. In addition, mechanisms for the exchange of information between the Security Council and troop-contributing countries must be strengthened in order to ensure that those countries could participate in the critical and key phases of defining peacekeeping operations and establishing their mandates.

46. **Mr. Kulyk** (Ukraine) said that millions of people throughout the world still pinned their hopes on United Nations peacekeeping operations, which had become more complex as the nature of conflicts had changed. Effective new mechanisms and new approaches had been put in place as a result of the Brahimi report. It remained for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to adopt new working methods and a new management culture and improve the quality and substance of its activities, in keeping with the five strategic goals it had set itself. His delegation believed that in staffing the Department, priority should be given to the major troop-contributing countries, especially those countries which were not represented at all in the Department.

47. The enhancement of the United Nations rapid deployment capability would be furthered by the strategic deployment stocks mechanism advocated by the Department's Office of Mission Support. Another useful new approach that would facilitate rapid deployment was the establishment of a generic mission headquarters and on-call lists of military and civilian police personnel, for whom the necessary training modules would now have to be developed; Ukraine would submit proposals in that respect.

48. Substantial progress had also been made in improving consultation mechanisms between the troop-contributing countries, the Security Council and the Secretariat. Partnership and respect were indispensable, and the agreed decisions taken on the matter should now be fully implemented, to build on the progress made in the past year. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations should also continue the practice of meeting with the Security Council Working Group of the Whole on Peacekeeping Operations.

49. It was important to maintain the pace of reform and to continue to strengthen the United Nations peacekeeping capacity; one way to do so was to improve the Secretariat's information management and analysis capacity. Unfortunately, the safety and security of the peacekeeping personnel was still an acute issue. It was the central element of any peacekeeping operation. The Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel needed to be more strictly observed; and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, having undertaken a welcome review of security requirements in peacekeeping missions, should continue working on the issue.

50. Ukraine, since the first years of its independence, had considered participation in peacekeeping activities as its contribution towards making the world safer: thus far it had dispatched almost 1,500 military and civilian personnel to nine ongoing operations. In recognition of the dedication, professionalism and courage of the United Nations peacekeepers and in honour of those who had lost their lives in the performance of duty, Ukraine had proposed the designation of an International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers. It would be submitting a draft resolution to that effect and hoped it would be unanimously endorsed.

51. **Mr. Song** Seong-jong (Republic of Korea) said that his delegation strongly supported the expansion of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi and the introduction of a rapid deployment capability in the context of the United Nations Standby Arrangements System. The Republic of Korea would work closely with the Secretariat to upgrade its level of participation in that system.

52. While welcoming the provision of additional resources to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, he called on it to conduct regular self-evaluations with a view to reforming its organizational culture and reorienting its relationship with field missions and other agencies of the United Nations system, in close cooperation with troop-contributing countries. He welcomed the Secretariat's ongoing efforts to incorporate lessons learned in the field into strategic planning and the formulation and implementation of policies, and called for the strengthening of cooperation and consultation between

the Secretariat and troop-contributing countries to maximize the benefits of lessons learned. Gross misconduct on the part of peacekeepers in mission areas posed a serious challenge to United Nations peacekeeping operations and to the cause of international peace and security; his delegation expected the Secretariat to take comprehensive measures at the earliest time to prevent the recurrence of such misconduct.

53. The Republic of Korea had been and would continue to be an active participant in United Nations peacekeeping operations, having deployed over 2,000 peacekeepers in six different missions around the world since 1993; its troops were currently serving in four missions, including those in Timor-Leste and Western Sahara.

54. **Mr. Mosgaard** (Denmark), speaking on behalf of the European Union and the associated countries Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey, called for intensified cooperation between the United Nations and the European Union and its member States in the areas of conflict prevention and crisis management. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations should develop a strategy for the effective coordination of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes, both at Headquarters and in the field, and their integration in the planning and organization of peacekeeping operations. The European Union hoped that the recruitment process would generate improvements in the Peacekeeping Best Practices Unit, which could play a critical role to that end. It looked forward to discussing the issue in depth in the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations.

55. The availability, training and qualifications of civilian police were equally vital, and their status must be properly defined. The operational and other needs of civilian police and other rule-of-law components must be met within the framework of a comprehensive, system-wide approach to establishing the rule of law in mission areas. African peacekeeping capacities, in particular, must be enhanced and better coordinated, with an emphasis on better training and deployment, and on meeting the needs of new troop-contributing countries from Africa. With regard to other training matters, a focal point needed to be established to coordinate training for military, police and civilians. A training programme for key mission personnel must also be launched. While welcoming such improvements as the strategic deployment stocks, pre-mandate commitment authority and the emerging "on-call list" for a generic mission headquarters, the European Union stressed the need to improve information and the sharing of information on potential conflicts, and for enhanced synchronization of initiatives to ensure that the necessary personnel and equipment were in the right place at the right time.

56. The European Union fully supported the principle of gender mainstreaming in peacekeeping and encouraged the establishment of back-up capacity in the Secretariat to support gender focal points in the field. It welcomed the recent introduction of two new mechanisms to improve cooperation between troop-contributing countries, the Security Council and the Secretariat. The effectiveness of those mechanisms should be kept under review and adjustments considered when necessary. In conclusion, he stressed the need to bear in mind the whole continuum of crisis management — from conflict prevention to conflict management and peacekeeping — and to ensure smooth transitions between phases, as recommended in the Brahimi report. In the past two years, much headway had been made in implementing those recommendations; however, the European Union felt strongly that that work must continue.

57. **Mr. Adamia** (Georgia) stressed the need for adequate resources to achieve the five strategic goals of the Organization's peacekeeping mandate. His delegation supported the Secretary-General's proposals for a strategic reserve, the further strengthening and development of the United Nations Standby Arrangements System and the timely availability of air- and sea-lift capacity. It also attached importance to developing a civilian police "on-call list", as recommended in the Brahimi report. It was convinced, however, that only the establishment of a fully operational high-readiness brigade would render the Standby Arrangements System truly effective.

58. Turning to complex operations, he expressed his delegation's satisfaction with the progress achieved in the preparation of a strategic manual on multidimensional operations. Major considerations in that regard should include the rapid deployment of police officers during multidimensional operations; the integration of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes into the mandates of peacekeeping operations; and the capacity of

peacekeeping missions to identify and address terrorist threats. The Brahimi report and its follow-up reports provided an important blueprint for the maintenance of international peace and security, and a benchmark for the assessment of successes and failures of reform efforts.

59. For eight years, the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia had been limited to monitoring compliance with the Agreement on a Ceasefire and Separation of Forces, signed in Moscow in 1994, which made the peacekeeping forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States the sole guarantors of peace and stability in the conflict zone. That arrangement called into question one of the basic principles of peacekeeping — impartiality — given that more than 2,000 Georgians had been killed in the conflict zone, and peacekeeping forces had been seen participating in, or providing military and logistical support to, the punitive operation carried out by the Abkhaz separatist forces. Indeed, the peacekeeping force had established itself as a border guard between Abkhazia and the rest of Georgia, and the illegal Abkhaz border guard and customs officials operating freely near peacekeeping checkpoints had prevented the return of 300,000 internally displaced persons and refugees. On several occasions, the Acting Commander-in-Chief of the Peacekeeping Force had declared that Abkhazia was and always would be an integral part of the Russian Federation; indeed, 80 per cent of the population of Abkhazia had been illegally converted into citizens of the Russian Federation. The breakdown in the security situation in the area was seriously affecting the local Georgian population and returnees in the conflict zone. Between the peacekeeping forces' unwillingness to protect them and the paralysis of international organizations, refugees and internally displaced persons were easy targets for ethnic cleansing by Abkhaz separatists. Nevertheless, the situation had elicited a measured response in the Brahimi recommendations.

60. A transitional, joint Georgian-Abkhaz administration under the aegis of international organizations in the Gali district would be an important step towards restoring order and confidence between the parties to the conflict. It would also contribute to the steady return of refugees and internally displaced persons and be fully consistent with the recommendations of the Brahimi report concerning the integration of peace-building in peace operations and the establishment of transitional civil administrations in the settlement of "transnational conflicts". Those recommendations were of little use if they could not be implemented in the Abkhazia peace process. If responsibility for peacekeeping remained solely in the hands of one neighbouring — and far from impartial — big Power, despairing refugees and internally displaced persons might well resort to arms and violence as a means of returning home.

61. **Mr. Serdyukov** (Belarus), endorsing the statement made by the representative of Jordan on behalf of the countries of the Non-Aligned Movement, said that the momentum in the reform of the Organization's peacekeeping activities should be maintained. His delegation attached great importance to constructive trilateral cooperation between the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Secretariat in enhancing the planning, deployment and management of peacekeeping operations. It also continued to stress the importance of developing realistic and well thought-out mandates for peacekeeping missions that took account of local specificities and respected basic peacekeeping principles, namely the consent of the parties, impartiality and the non-use of force, except in self-defence.

62. Belarus had always supported the timely and effective use of preventive diplomacy. It was crucially important to strengthen consultations between the Security Council, the Secretariat and troop-contributing countries at all stages of planning and conducting peacekeeping operations, including by devising new mechanisms.

63. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations had made progress in implementing rapid deployment, which should be further enhanced, including by maximizing use of the United Nations Standby Arrangements System and establishing on-call lists of civilian police officers, ensuring a sound financial basis for the deployment of missions and use of strategic deployment stocks at the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi. Belarus also supported the rationalization of the procurement process by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to ensure efficiency, accountability and transparency.

64. His Government was making concerted efforts, including in the legislative domain, to boost the participation of Belarusian nationals in peacekeeping

operations of the United Nations and of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe; it had recently taken steps to expand its involvement in non-military components and the United Nations Standby Arrangements System. Belarus looked forward to convening two-week training courses in 2003 to enhance national capacity and to establishing training facilities with support from the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. Despite difficulties associated with an economy in transition, Belarus was consistently striving to fulfil its obligations in respect of the financing of United Nations peacekeeping activities.

65. **Mr. Anwar** (Indonesia) noted with satisfaction the important contribution of United Nations peacekeeping operations to the maintenance of peace and the facilitation of post-conflict reconstruction in some areas. He called for the strengthening of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone as well as continuous financial support by the international community to meet the requirements for peace-building support in that country. He also welcomed Security Council resolution 1437 (2002) extending the mandate of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Prevlaka until 15 December 2002, and announced the intention of his Government to contribute two engineering and technical units to the United Nations Observer Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Despite their success, however, United Nations peacekeeping missions continued to face daunting challenges, and some had become prolonged. Indonesia attached great importance to the formulation and implementation of viable exit strategies for those protracted missions.

66. Indonesia also attached great importance to respect for the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States, as well as of non-intervention, in the use of peacekeeping operations. It was imperative that United Nations peacekeeping operations should not be used on the basis of partial or double standards; with the consent of the concerned parties, they should be deployed wherever required without delay.

67. He reaffirmed his delegation's support for the Brahimi reform process, which must adhere to the principles of transparency, effectiveness and efficiency. Any matters that might impede the reform process should be carefully addressed. The rapid deployment capability for peacekeeping operations must be strengthened; in that regard, he welcomed the development of the United Nations Standby Arrangements System, and its on-call list systems, by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, but specified that their implementation should take account of the needs and particular characteristics of troop-contributing countries.

68. His delegation welcomed the regular tripartite consultations between the troop-contributing countries, the Security Council and the Secretariat, and called for the further realization of the commitments to such consultations contained in Security Council resolution 1353 (2001) and the note of the President of the Security Council (S/2002/56). Indonesia attached particular importance to international cooperation in strengthening national capacity, and was of the view that international assistance for peacekeeping operations could be provided by regional organizations or individual countries in addition to the United Nations itself. Moreover, with the growing importance of cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in dealing with regional conflicts, Indonesia encouraged the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to continue its study of the principles and mechanisms of such cooperation.

69. In light of the increasing role of civilian police in peacekeeping missions, his delegation welcomed the development by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of a rapidly deployable 100-person on-call police contingent, as well as the contribution of the United Nations Selection Assistance Team in providing assistance and advice to countries contributing police personnel. The possibility of using expertise as a criterion for inclusion in such an on-call list system, rather than simply relying on a count of names, should not be excluded. Finally, he reiterated the importance of expediting action on and reimbursement of the claims of countries contributing personnel and equipment to peacekeeping operations.

70. **Mr. Nik** (Malaysia) said that his country was ready to consider making further contributions to United Nations peacekeeping operations within its capability. In the context of the current sidelining for political reasons of some peacekeeping operations, he reiterated his delegation's view that peacekeeping was an essential activity of the United Nations and needed to be based on the principle of impartiality. The selection of mission leadership should also be an impartial and transparent process, based on such criteria as the candidates' credibility, capability,

experience in peacekeeping operations and the level of troop contribution by the country he or she represented, and should be carried out in accordance with established procedures and guidelines.

71. Noting the integral role of training in effective field performance, he said that Malaysia fully supported a coordinated approach to training for United Nations peacekeeping operations. The Malaysian Peacekeeping Training Centre in Port Dickson had successfully adopted the standardized generic training modules developed by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations as a basic pre-deployment requirement. To date, 36 military personnel from 16 countries had received training at the Centre; it was hoped that with further development of training modules for civilians and police personnel, the Centre would be able to serve the entire region. In the context of interregional cooperation between training centres, Malaysia was grateful for the training assistance it had received from the Training and Evaluation Service of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Norwegian Defence International Centre and the Canadian International Peacekeeping Training Centre. He also stressed the importance of training in civil-military relations (civil-military cooperation) for either traditional or complex missions.

72. **Mr. Gatilov** (Russian Federation), recalling that the maintenance of international peace and security was the primary purpose of the Organization, said that the United Nations had the necessary international legitimacy and experience to take collective measures to that end. The General Assembly and the Security Council had adopted a number of important decisions to enhance the peacekeeping potential of the United Nations; the international community now looked forward to practical results. His delegation welcomed the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (A/56/863) which reaffirmed the basic principles of peacekeeping, including the primary responsibility of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security and the importance of strengthening cooperation with regional arrangements in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter.

73. The Charter clearly defined the key role of the Security Council at all stages of peacekeeping operations. The basic principle remained unchanged that any use of coercion or force on the part of the international community was admissible only with the Council's approval and under its control. It was equally clear that the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations would be enhanced if troop-contributing countries were properly consulted in accordance with existing Security Council decisions, including resolution 1353 (2001). Efforts should now focus on implementing the agreed measures, allowing them time to work, before considering the need for further improvements.

74. Preventive diplomacy had been shown to be a reliable tool for maintaining global stability, and was now more important than ever. It was vital to develop a comprehensive approach to maintaining international peace and security by closely linking peacekeeping operations with efforts for the political settlement of conflicts and ensuring a smooth transition to post-conflict peace-building.

75. His Government could not accept the notion of humanitarian intervention, in circumvention of the Charter. The way forward lay not in attempting to settle humanitarian problems by force, but in the further enhancement of United Nations peacekeeping and the development of multi-functional operations, including operations with humanitarian components. His delegation welcomed the progress made in enhancing the capability for the planning and conduct of peacekeeping operations. In that connection, the Special Committee and the Security Council Working Group of the Whole on Peacekeeping Operations had equal status and should thus be actively cooperating, not competing with each other.

76. Progress had been achieved in diversifying logistical support to peacekeeping operations and rationalizing the procurement process. His delegation assumed that, since the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and other Secretariat units had received the full reinforcement requested, they would be able to carry out the functions entrusted to them in a fully satisfactory manner. At the same time, the continued shortage of troops, equipment and other logistical support remained a cause for concern. One of the most effective ways of addressing the lack of military expertise would be to strengthen the Military Staff Committee; his delegation proposed that, in accordance with Article 47, paragraphs 2 and 4 of the Charter, its composition should be broadened to include all the members of the Security Council as well as other interested countries, including troop-contributing countries. That initiative was not directed against the proposals of other countries and would not infringe on

the prerogatives of the Secretariat; instead, it would complement other measures under discussion.

77. The Russian Federation would continue to play an active role in enhancing the effectiveness of international peacekeeping. Currently Russian peacekeepers were participating in 11 of the 17 United Nations peacekeeping operations, and the Russian Federation was contributing to the United Nations Standby Arrangements System. At the same time, the Russian Federation continued to shoulder the main burden for peacekeeping in the area of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

78. **Mr. de Alba** (Mexico) said that in the light of the growing scope and complexity of United Nations peacekeeping responsibilities throughout the world, the time had come to speak not of peace-*keeping* operations but of *peace* operations, in a broad sense that reflected their multidimensional character. The explicit recognition by the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations of that multidimensional character was an important step in that direction. The implications of that multidimensionality were far from having been fully assimilated, however, since the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and even the Secretariat were still not coordinating their work, they needed to participate more actively in the planning and conduct of peace operations and to coordinate their own efforts and policies with the other main bodies traditionally responsible for the planning and implementation of those operations.

79. It was clear that in order to achieve that level of coordination, policies and concepts needed to be thoroughly reviewed. As the sole forum at the United Nations responsible for comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects, the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations needed to strengthen its central role in defining policy. At the same time, however, the Special Committee had to recognize the need to coordinate its work with that of the Security Council, particularly with regard to operational aspects of peace missions and consulting mechanisms that included the contributing countries and the Secretariat. Similarly, coordination was needed between the Special Committee and the Security Council Working Group of the Whole on Peacekeeping Operations; the difficulties that continued to arise in that respect showed that in order to be effective, communications had to be two-way and not be limited to the mere presentation of reports.

80. There were other topics essential to the success of peace operations, on which the General Assembly and Security Council, through their respective subsidiary bodies, needed to maintain close communication. Of particular interest to his delegation were the incorporation of a gender perspective in peace operations, the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants, post-conflict reconstruction and development assistance. Mexico would continue to promote a constructive dialogue in that regard, with a view to building solid and lasting alliances for peace. Finally, he noted that in the broader context of peace operations, the number of contributing countries could well be increased, thereby enhancing their effectiveness. Mexico was evaluating its participation in peace operations in terms of that new reality.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.